Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

N THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method for rapidly isolating nucleic acid from a nucleic acid source comprising the steps of:

a) lysing the nucleic acid source,

b) filtering the lysate through a porous matrix consisting of a material based on silica or of a silica coated material to bind the nucleic acid to the porous matrix in the absence of an alcohol and in the absence of a chaotropic salt,

c) eluting the nucleic acid from the porous matrix of step b) by using an aqueous buffer solution.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is DNA.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the DNA is genomic DNA.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1~~ to 3~~, wherein the nucleic acid is of a size ranging from about 10 kbp to about 50 kbp.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid source is any sort of biological tissue or cell material.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the nucleic acid source is mammalian cells, organs, biopsies, blood, serum, muscle, bone marrow, bacteria, yeast, and/or any sort of plant tissue or cells, like seeds or leaves.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid source is lysed using a buffer not containing a chaotropic salt and not containing an alcohol.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein a RNase and/or a protease and/or lysozyme is added to one or more of the steps of claim 1.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the porous matrix comprises a siliceous oxide coated surface.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1~~ or 9~~, wherein the porous matrix is a

porous silica membrane.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1~~, 9 or 10~~, wherein the porous matrix comprises pores having the size ranging from 0,2 µm to 3,2 µm.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the porous matrix comprises pores having the size ranging from 0,3 µm to 2,8 µm.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the porous matrix comprises pores having the size ranging from 0,5 µm to 2,0 µm.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid serves as a template in a subsequent application like AFLP, RFLP, microsatellite analysis, southern blot, PCR or quantitative real-time PCR.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein the isolated nucleic acid serves as a template in a subsequent PCR or subsequent quantitative real-time PCR application.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the lysate of step a) of claim 1 is centrifuged to eliminate cell debris from the lysate prior to step b) of claim 1.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein one or more washing steps are performed subsequent to step b) of claim 1 and prior to step c) of claim1.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the washing step is performed using a washing buffer.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the porous matrix of step b) of claim 1 is a membrane embedded in a single column filter tube.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the porous matrix of step b) of claim 1 is a membrane integrated in a multi-well filter plate.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claims 19 and 20~~ claim 19, wherein the membrane is assembled in one or more layers.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the pore size of one layer differs from the pore size of the other layer(s).

23. (Currently Amended) A kit for performing the method according to ~~claims 1 to 22~~ claim 1 comprising at least:

a) a porous matrix consisting of a material based on silica or of a silica coated material

b) a lysing buffer containing no alcohol and containing no chaotropic salt

c) an elution buffer.